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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE: APPLICATION OF

TOSHICHIIKA TAKEI, ET AL.

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EXAMINER: LUU, C.A.

SERIAL NO: 10/774,419

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FILED: FEBRUARY 10, 2004

: GROUP ART UNIT: 2818

FOR: HEAT PROCESSING APPARATUS  
AND HEAT PROCESSING METHOD

:

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22313

SIR:

In response to the Office Action dated May 15, 2006, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 6 of this paper.